

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Congressman Mike Pence announced the U.S. Capitol Historical Society's first annual student essay contest on the topic of "The Role of Informed Citizenship in Making Democracy Work." There is a junior division, open to students in grades 6 to 8, and a senior division, open to students in grades 9 to 12. Both divisions offer monetary prizes. All entries must be postmarked or electronically submitted no later than June 15, 2012. For more information, click here: [Essay Contest.pdf](#).

"Understanding the importance of democracy and how best to make it work is an excellent issue for all of us to consider, especially the future leaders of our country," said Pence. "I encourage all interested students to study this issue and submit essays."

Background:

The United States Capitol Historical Society states: "If the American experiment in self-government is to succeed, it must have the active participation of its citizens. In an essay, examine the role of informed citizens in making the American system of representative self-government work."

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